

Smoking and hypercholesterolemia. This subject has been alluded to in the commentary of 1964 document, page 354a. There are several studies indicating that there is no relationship between smoking and cholesterol levels (page 207-210).

The cited article (13) Benson et al. does not show that smokers generally have higher serum cholesterol levels than nonsmokers. The Results quoted from the article are as follows:

The mean serum cholesterol was also higher in urban men in both age groups (Table 1). Twenty-one per cent of the younger urban men and 12 per cent of the older urban men had serum cholesterol levels of greater than 260 mg per cent in contrast to 11 per cent of the younger and none of the older rural males.

Urban men smoked less than their rural cohorts. The percentage of cigarette smokers in urban men was less in both age groups, but was statistically significant only in the younger age group (Table 1). However, there was a higher percentage of "heavy" (greater than one pack per day) cigarette smokers in the urban men in each age group (Table 1).

Table 1—Comparison of urban and rural males

	Age Group	Number of Subjects		Urban	Rural	p
		Urban	Rural			
Mean systolic and diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	45-54	33	28	139/87	121/76	<0.001*
	55-64	17	16	154/90	127/76	<0.001*
Relative weight	45-54	33	28	107	98	<0.02†
	55-64	17	16	100	95	<0.03†
Mean serum cholesterol (mg/100cc)	45-54	33	28	231	211	<0.02†
	55-64	17	16	220	199	<0.10
Per cent cigarette smokers	45-54	33	28	42	26	<0.001†
	55-64	17	16	29	56	<0.12
Per cent "heavy" (greater than 1 pack/day) cigarette smokers	45-54	14†	23†	64	35	—
	55-64	5†	9†	80	55	—
Per cent "abnormal" electrocardiograms	45-54	33	28	15	7	<0.42
	55-64	16	16	6	12	<0.55
Mean hematocrit (%)	45-54	33	28	45	44	>0.42
	55-64	17	16	43	45	<0.11

* Statistically significant for both systolic and diastolic.

† Statistically significant.

‡ Total number who are present smokers.

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